

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed April 5, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowance of claims 1-8, 15-21, 25-27, 29-37 and 44-50.

Claims 9, 28 and 38 have been amended to correct typographical errors, in compliance with the Office Action.

Claims 22-24 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

With this amendment it is respectfully submitted the claims satisfy the statutory requirements.

Request for Entry of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment will place the Application in better condition for allowance, or at the least, narrow any issues for an appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP



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